

Appln. No.: 10/057,765

REMARKS

Claims 1, 4-13, 16-25, 29-37, 40-48, and 50 are pending in the present application after this amendment adds new claim 50. Claims 1, 13, and 37 have been amended. The amendments and new claim do not add new matter and find support throughout the specification, figures, and claims. In view of the amendments and following remarks, reconsideration and allowance of the present application is respectfully requested.

Claims 1, 4-13, 16-25, 29-37, and 40-48 (with the cancellation of claims 3, 15, 28, and 39) are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over United States Patent No. 5,956,021 to Kubota et al. (hereinafter Kubota), in view of United States Patent No. 5,543,818 to Scott (hereinafter Scott). Applicants respectfully traverse.

Claim 1 relates to an information entry method that is computer-executable. The method of amended claim 1 includes, among other things, *displaying each of a plurality of groups, which respectively contains a plurality of information grouped according to a predetermined rule, so that each information contained in each group is displayed*. In the method of claim 1, each group is displayed so that a predetermined information contained therein is displayed in an enlarged manner as compared with the other information in the group selection mode, and the predetermined information is defined beforehand. In the method of amended claim 1, *each information contained in a group selected in the group selection mode is displayed in an enlarged manner as compared with the information contained in the other groups*.

The Examiner asserts that figure 19 of Kubota, in which selecting a character causes subordinate keys to be displayed downward, discloses displaying a group in an enlarged manner. The Examiner appears to assert that the *expanding of a group*, as apparently shown in Kubota,

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discloses *displaying in an enlarged manner*, as recited in the claims. This reading is in contravention of the claims and specification.

However, in the interest of expediting prosecution, Applicants herein amend the independent claims to clarify that *each information* in the selected group *is displayed in an enlarged manner* with respect to information in a non-selected group. As is apparent from figure 19 of Kubota, the information elements in the non-selected group are not displayed. Therefore, Kubota does not disclose the feature of claim 1 of displaying each of a plurality of groups, which respectively contains a plurality of information grouped according to a predetermined rule, so that *each information contained in each group is displayed*. The amendment to claim 1 further clarifies this relationship by indicating that *each information contained in a group selected in the group selection mode is displayed in an enlarged manner as compared with the information contained in the other groups*. In contrast, Kubota apparently only discloses the individual members of the selected group are displayed when the group is selected. Kubota states that when a representative key of a kana row is selected, then the subordinate keys are displayed downward (Kubota; col. 17, lines 26 to 37). Kubota does not disclose or suggest *enlarging each information in* a selected group as compared with the information contained in other groups, but rather appears to suggest displaying the constituents of a group when selecting a representative of a group, and displaying in a shaded manner the selected member of the group. For instance, Kubota states:

The initial display device may display predetermined *keys* larger than other keys, and the display change device may expand the provisionally selected key. The operator can confirm the expanded key before determining the key input. Therefore, it is possible to avoid wrong key input.

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(Kubota; col. 3, lines 13-18; emphasis added). Kubota apparently discusses a key being larger, but this does not disclose or suggest *enlarging information elements included in a group*, as recited in amended claim 1. Similarly, figure 19 and the accompanying text in the specification of Kubota do not disclose or suggest the feature of a group selected in the group selection mode being displayed in an enlarged manner as compared with the other groups. Figure 19 does not show any members of any group *enlarged* with respect to any other group, but rather apparently discloses showing the members of a group in a vertical column when a representative of the group is selected. In Kubota figure 19, the selected member of the group apparently appears shaded with respect to the other members of the group and other representative characters, however none of the members of the group appear to be enlarged. Neither Kubota nor Scott discloses nor suggests each information in a group selected in the group selection mode being displayed in an enlarged manner as compared with the information contained in the other groups. Therefore the combination of the references does not render claim 1 unpatentable.

Claims 4-12 depend from claim 1 and are therefore allowable for at least the same reasons as claim 1 is allowable.

Independent claims 13, and 37 have been amended in the same manner as claim 1 and include similar features. Therefore, these claims are allowable for at least the same reasons as claim 1 is allowable.

Claims 16-24 depend from claim 13 and claims 40-48 depend from claim 37. Therefore these claims are allowable for at least the same reasons as their respective base claims are allowable.

Independent claim 25 includes the feature of the information entry program displaying information selected in the information selection mode in an enlarged manner as compared with

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the other information. Therefore, this claim is allowable for at least the same reasons as claim 1 is allowable.

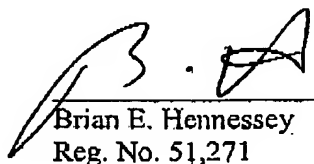
Claims 29-36 depend from claim 25 and are therefore allowable for at least the same reasons as claim 25 is allowable.

New claim 50 is directed to an information entry method that includes, *inter alia*, displaying a plurality of information elements, the plurality of information elements being divided into groups according to a predetermined rule, each group including a representative information element, and providing a group selection mode adapted to enable selection of a selected group by selecting the representative information element of the selected group. Claim 50 also includes *displaying the information elements of the selected group in an enlarged manner with respect to the information elements not in the selected group*. Therefore, new claim 50 includes features similar to claim 1 and is therefore allowable for at least the same reasons as claim 1 is allowable.

However, if for any reason the Examiner should consider this application not to be in condition for allowance, the Examiner is respectfully requested to telephone the undersigned attorney at the number listed below prior to issuing a further Action.

Any fee due with this paper may be charged to Deposit Account No. 50-1290.

Respectfully submitted,



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